

[TRANSCRIBED FROM HANDWRITTEN ORIGINAL]

Faribault Aug. 31, 1885

To the Directors:

I herewith place before you my report of the Minn. Training School for Idiots and Imbeciles for the past year. Since Nov. first of last year forty-eight children have been received. Our present number during vacation is fifty-five. Those with the children who are at their homes make a total of ninety-three. During the past year there have been four deaths. Two having died this last month.

- 1 progressive paralysis
- 1 pneumonia
- 1 chronic bronchitis
- 1 consumption

The following is a record of the school-work
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Twenty-eight	(28)	read cards.
Eighteen	(18)	read in the Primer
Five	(5)	read in the 2 nd Reader.
Six	(6)	read in the 3 rd Reader.
Four	(4)	read in the 4 th Reader.
Eleven	(11)	learn spelling lessons.
Nineteen	(19)	write fairly well.
Twenty-five	(25)	learn writing.
Fifteen	(15)	learn simple rules [?] on manual frame.
Five	(5)	learn from Colburn's first lessons.
Six	(6)	learn written arithmetic.
Twelve	(12)	learn geography from books.
Twenty	(20)	learn geography orally.
Twelve	(12)	do plain sewing.
Eight	(8)	outline Kensington.
Eight	(8)	embroider on canvas.
Five	(5)	knit.
Six	(6)	crochet.
Fourteen	(14)	hammer brass.
Twenty-two	(22)	learn rudiments of drawing.
Eighteen	(18)	sing.
Twenty-four	(24)	dance.
Ten	(10)	do housework.
Fourteen	(14)	are mutes.
Six	(6)	are semi-mutes.
Twelve	(12)	write tables of weights and measure.

Six (6) compose letters to friends.
Fourteen (14) copy letters to friends.
Seven (7) write selections of poetry and prose.

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In comparing this record with the one I made for you last fall, one cannot fail to be impressed by the great progress made by our children during this last year.

I have never seen more faithful efficient work in any school-rooms than has been done in ours. I feel I cannot commend our teachers too highly. The results of their work have been apparent in everything the children have undertaken. Not only have they made steady and even rapid advancement in their school work proper but all the outside work they have undertaken shows the same evidences of mental quickening.

In addition to the regular work of the

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school room, our children have made great advancement in learning various kinds of fancy work, and have also made a fine start in the art of hammering metals "repoussè work" as it is called.

I cannot speak too highly of the advantage this last-named art introduced by Miss Powers as an experiment has been to our children. We have never had anything introduced which has awakened so much enthusiasm and which has done such effective work in training the eye and hand and developing the energies. Not only has it been of great advantage as an education, but, what is of less importance, it has also

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been a source of resources to the School. The same is true of our fancy work department. Out of the proceeds of the sales made we have been able to pay for all materials and tools used, and have still a balance unexpended. The orders for brass work have come in faster than they could be filled. In this connection I would like to mention a pleasant incident of the year, the fact that the specimens of our children's work, including fancy and brass work gained for us a diploma of honor as an educational exhibit from the committee of awards at the New Orleans Exposition the past winter. An honor we shared with but four other educational

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institutions.

The work outside which has been done has been equally effective. Our boys have now reached a sufficient number and an suitable age to make it practicable for me to take the farm under my direction, and with the help of one man they have put in

7 ½ acres corn
9 acres potatoes etc.
½ acre beans

in addition to raising what vegetables we need for ourselves and the Blind. The crops are not yet gathered but everything indicates a good harvest and I know that if the harvesting is conducted in the same plan which I followed in putting in the crops viz;

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judicious working of the boys, the farm cannot fail to show a balance on the credit side at the end of the year.

In finishing my report of the year I desire especially to thank all the faithful workers in our household for their devotion to the best interests of the children. We also owe thanks to the Cong. Sunday School for the kindly thought which prompted so generous a gift of pictures to brighten our children's' rooms.

It is with great regret that I leave this institution now at the end of its sixth year. All the plans and ambitions we have had, and the ideals we have tried to work out, are just beginning to

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show us that we were not working without results. At no time since the beginning has the prospect of growth and good seemed so certain as now, when I am about to leave it, but I go away with the satisfaction of feeling that that which I have worked for so earnestly--the proper care of the imbecile and a suitable house for the ___able--is assured beyond any chance of a failure. The action of our legislature last winter set the example to many states older than we are in the work, of caring for all the defectives. If I have had any measure of success I owe it next to the cooperation of the workers in the house to you as a board and to the kindly [?] interest manifested

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from the first to the School by the Officers of the State. Especially has the State Board of Charities by their interest in and encouragement of everything concerning the best good of the school been of service in helping to place our efforts in a proper light before the public.